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OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE

Mission

The Office of Scientific Intelligence carries out the responsibilities of CIA in the production of scientific and technical intelligence. Its main objective is to forewarn or predict the development of new weapons, equipment, or techniques so that timely countermeasures may be taken. A secondary objective is the improvement of our own weapons and equipment. OSI is concerned with scientific innovations and their potential or actual development; the technical characteristics of weapons, equipment, already developed; the vulnerability of foreign scientific and technical personnel, organizations, and facilities to our capabilities; and indications of the intentions of foreign nations to exercise their scientific capabilities.

Organization

In carrying out his mission the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence is assisted by a Deputy Assistant Director, three staffs (Operations, Intelligence Production and General Services) and eight substantive divisions: Biology, Chemistry, Medicine, Nuclear Energy, Physics and Electronics, Applied Sciences, Scientific Resources and Scientific Analysis. The fields covered by most of these divisions are self-evident from their names. Scientific Resources Division is concerned with over-all studies of scientific manpower, organization, and education. Scientific Analysis Division engages in specialized research projects as a service to the other divisions.

Discussion

Within the intelligence community, the general field of scientific and technical intelligence production is subdivided into three major areas. Primary production responsibility for these areas has been allocated between CIA and the three military Services as follows:

- a. The Services have the primary production responsibility for intelligence on weapons and military equipment and techniques, plus intelligence on research and development leading to new military materiel.
- b. CIA has the primary production responsibility for intelligence on fundamental research in the basic sciences, scientific resources, and on medicine (other than military medicine), plus intelligence on pertinent applied research and development.
- c. Intelligence on atomic energy is the production responsibility of all interested agencies.

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Despite these allocations of primary production responsibility, the military Services require intelligence indicating trends from fundamental research in the basic sciences, and conversely, CIA requires intelligence on weapons and military equipment and techniques. Accordingly, there exist areas of common or overlapping interest which require continuing inter-agency liaison and working-level conferences. Further, any agency may make such studies as it believes necessary to supplement intelligence obtained from other agencies in order to fulfill its agency functions.

Three mechanisms for coordinating the production of scientific intelligence among the IAC agencies have been established as follows:

The Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee, which is responsible for coordinating the production of atomic energy intelligence;

The Scientific Estimates Committee, which is charged with integrating scientific intelligence as required for the production of national intelligence, stimulating and guiding inter-agency liaison and working-level conferences, and coordinating the production of the Scientific Chapter (Chapter VII) of the National Intelligence Surveys; and

The Joint Technical Intelligence Subcommittee of the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is concerned with the production of scientific intelligence by the Services.

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Under the allocations of primary production responsibility, OSI has a responsibility to the community for conducting intelligence research and producing intelligence reports and estimates on subjects within its allocated area. At the same time, OSI is responsible for providing the DCI and other officers and offices of CIA with guidance and support in the entire scientific intelligence field. For this purpose, OSI produces such reports as may be required to supplement intelligence produced by other agencies within their areas of primary production responsibility. More specifically OSI's internal CIA functions include the following:

- a. Formulation of the Agency intelligence research and production program in the field of scientific intelligence.
- b. Providing advice and assistance to ONE in the preparation of National Intelligence Estimates.
- c. Providing current scientific intelligence as required by DCI and other offices.

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- d. Providing assessment, assistance, evaluation and guidance in support of collection and operational activities.
- e. Advising other offices on requests upon CIA for scientific intelligence.
- f. Developing scientific techniques and methods relating to the intelligence process and recommending their employment.

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